

OIC criticises G-7 over Bosnia

JEDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), an umbrella group for the world's Muslims, said Saturday that the Group of Seven (G-7) summit should have been more forceful on the subject of Bosnia-Herzegovina. "The decisions taken by the leaders of the seven great industrial nations on Bosnia contained some positive elements," said a statement issued by OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid. He added, however: "We hoped that the leaders would have taken a stronger attitude in dealing with the problem." Mr. Gabid said U.N. Security Council resolutions on the former Yugoslav republic must be implemented to prevent further bloodshed. "Any hesitation or delay in this respect means that the conflict might spread to other areas in the Balkans and, consequently, (become) a direct threat to the world peace," he warned. He called for "international pressure" on the Serbs for a ceasefire. The OIC has persistently called for lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia. It also has sought U.N. military intervention.

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Mubarak inquires after King's health

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak inquiring about his health condition. The King, currently on a private visit to London with Her Majesty Queen Noor, thanked Mr. Mubarak and wished him good health and happiness. King Hussein was Thursday discharged from hospital after being treated for an irregular heartbeat problem.

King plans to visit China in September

AMMAN (R) — King Hussein plans to visit China in September for talks on Middle East peace and bilateral ties, official sources said Saturday. His visit to Beijing will be his second official trip to China — one of the five permanent U.N. Security Council members — since 1983.

Israel arrests 3 in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (AFP) — An Israeli army undercover unit arrested three wanted Palestinians including a military chief after a shootout overnight, Palestinian sources said Saturday. Troops surrounded the house where Major Al Helu, aged 21, and two other men were hiding in Jabalia, refugees camp on the Gaza Strip. After a brief exchange of gunfire in which the house owner was wounded, Mr. Helu, Hassan Al Amudi, 21, and Emad Sheik Khalil, 20, surrendered and walked out with their hands up. Mr. Helu was Gaza City head of the Hawks, the combat unit of Fatah.

U.S. helps Kurds to have phone link

ERBIL (AFP) — Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq will be linked to the international communications network as part of an agreement signed Friday with a Los Angeles firm, a company spokesman said. John Early of Telemobile Inc. told AFP that Kurds will be able to make domestic calls as early as October and international calls several months later. The first phase of the project will cost about \$250,000, he said, adding that the U.S. State Department approved the deal between the Los Angeles-based Telemobile Inc. and the Kurdish "government" in northern Iraq. "The State Department has offered to contact both the United Nations sanctions committee and the Turkish authorities to get the necessary permission" to go ahead with the project, Mr. Early said.

Qatar 'favours strong Iran'

NICOSIA (R) — Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jabr Al Thani said Saturday he favoured a strong Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. "The Qatari foreign minister said the presence of a strong and powerful Iran is in the interest of the whole region," IRNA quoted Sheikh Hamad as saying in Tehran. He flew to Iran Saturday at the start of a regional tour during which he will discuss bilateral ties and easing regional tensions. IRNA said Sheikh Hamad stressed that Gulf states were keen on improving ties with Iran, adding, "I hope that any likely misunderstanding between some Arab countries and Iran will be removed."

18 held in Cairo bombings

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian security forces arrested 18 Islamic militants suspected of involvement in Cairo bombings and seized 35 weapons Saturday north of the Egyptian capital, police said. The operation took place in the Nile Delta province of Minufiya, where the militants sought refuge after five unclaimed bomb attacks in Cairo since February that killed 20 people, including two foreign tourists, and wounded 80, police said. Egypt's radical Gamma Islamiyah, which has led a campaign to overthrow the secular government, has denied any responsibility in the attacks. The authorities have to date failed to identify those behind the bombings. Police said the suspects were transferred to Cairo to be interrogated by the state security services.

Royal Decree sets in motion campaign '93

Dissolution of Parliament, changes to Election Law expected soon

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

current Parliament's mandate on Nov. 23.

AMMAN — The announcement of a Royal Decree that "elections will be held according to the law," has set in motion the beginning of the 1993 campaign for the 12th Parliament.

The Royal Decree, which was announced late Friday night, is the first in a series of steps that will involve dissolving the current Parliament, setting a date by the government for the elections and, as has been largely expected, issuing a new temporary law for those elections.

This opposition stems mainly from the fact that many of the 80 members at the Lower House were voted in largely due to the bloc-voting system of the current Election Law, but also because they think it is wrong to issue a new, albeit temporary, law without consulting a sitting Parliament.

"But the government cannot tie its hands down by allowing Parliament to use the expected amendments to the law to create electioneering slogans," a source close to the government said. "It is my understanding that a Royal Decree dissolving Parliament will be issued soon so that the government can enact the new temporary law," the source said.

Assurances that the legislation would be changed only after thorough consultations with representatives of all political groups in the country have fallen short of the deputies' demands that any

(Continued on page 10)

Ross upbeat after Cairo talks on ideas to break deadlock

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Egyptian and American officials huddled for nearly five hours Saturday over new ideas that the United States has offered to resolve obstacles to progress in Middle East peace talks.

Both Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Dennis Ross, head of a visiting U.S. State Department delegation, expressed satisfaction with the meeting and indicated efforts to push forward the peace process were at a crucial stage. "We are hopeful that over time we are going to succeed in our common objectives of making peace," Mr. Ross said after the talks.

He told reporters he had "detailed, intensive and useful discussions" during the talks with Mr. Musa, and Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser.

"The Egyptians and Americans are working very well together. We are truly full partners in this effort ... we are making every effort to make progress, to find ways to narrow the gap between

(Continued on page 10)

Husseini rejects Peres' offer to specify 'self-rule' land without Jerusalem

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — The leader of the Palestinian peace talks delegation Saturday rejected an Israeli offer to specify territory the Jewish state was willing to concede in exchange for keeping Jerusalem off the agenda.

Faisal Husseini told reporters here that "Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. Jerusalem is the capital of the future Palestinian state, and any dialogue that will attempt to exclude Jerusalem is totally rejected."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Friday suggested Israel might reverse longstanding policy and negotiate clearly delineated areas for autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In exchange, he said, the Palestinians would have to agree not to discuss Jerusalem.

Previously, Israel was willing only to discuss limited self-rule that would give Palestinians control over activities such as education and local government but would not include geographic boundaries.

Mr. Husseini ridiculed Mr.

(Continued on page 10)

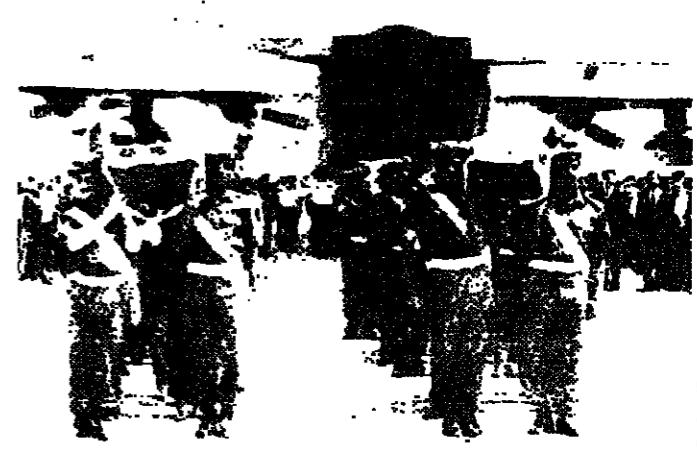
An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جordan Times

Palestinians slam G-7 call

AMMAN (R) — A Palestinian leader said Saturday the seven leading industrial nations call to end the Arab economic boycott of Israel was premature. "It is premature and a sort of provocation to come and ask the Arabs to end the boycott while Israel is escalating (violence) everywhere, especially in Jerusalem," said Faisal Al Husseini, coordinator of the Palestinian Middle East peace teams. Wednesday's call by Group of Seven (G-7) leaders at the end of their summit was hailed by Israel as a turning point. Mr. Husseini said such a move could not be made ahead of a comprehensive peace and before Israel agreed to return Arab lands it occupied in 1967. "Let us start to understand what the principle of peace will be and Israel's readiness to start implementing the withdrawal. Then we can talk about steps like ending the boycott." The Arab boycott has been in force since the establishment of Israel in 1948. In addition to banning Israeli products in Arab countries, Arab states boycott foreign companies doing business with the Jewish state. In 1991, the G-7 supported an Arab offer to end the boycott in return for a freeze on Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The latest declaration made no such link.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other senior officials Saturday await the arrival of a plane carrying the victims of a bus accident in



Yemen. (Right) Soldiers bring down the coffins of the nine Jordanians who died in the crash (Petra photos)

Victims of Yemen accident brought home

Senior diplomat, 8 dependents killed in bus crash

King condoles families of victims

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Saturday sent a message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, expressing deep sorrow over the deaths and injuries of Jordanians in the accident in Yemen and asking the Regent to convey his condolences to the families of the victims.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, and senior officials received the cream-coloured coffins, draped in Jordanian flags, were brought here by a military aircraft. Nine other Jordanians injured in the accident Friday while on a private bus tour also arrived on the plane.

walking on crutches or lying on stretchers, were immediately taken by helicopter to the Hussein Medical Centre.

The dead diplomat, Othman Al Abbadi, served as the embassy's first secretary. Besides his family, the wife and daughter of the medical services attaché and the son and daughter of its military attaché, also died in the accident.

An Iraqi victim of the crash, Suleiman Daoud, a doctor, also returned on the plane en route for burial in Baghdad. His wife and four children

were also taken to hospital for treatment.

The bus was carrying the diplomats and their families on an excursion when it overturned, killing the nine along with the Yemeni driver, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Those killed in the accident were: Othman Al Abbadi, counsellor at the embassy in Sanaa, his wife Hikmat Outeishat, his children Firas, Ahmad, Samar, and Sahar, Zein Majali, the wife of health attaché Suleiman Al Fayez, and Fayez's daughter Lujein.

The deceased will be buried in Amman Sunday.

Along with the Regent to receive the injured and the bodies were His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Royal Court Chief, Khaled Karaki and other officials and relatives of the deceased and injured.

Petra said the Regent had directed the health authorities to offer treatment and care for those wounded in the accident.

The Regent Saturday evening received a telephone call from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh who offered his condolences to the Regent over the death of the Jordanian diplomat and dependents.

Rockets fired at Israeli positions

Combined agency dispatches

TYRE (AP) — Resistance fighters fired five Katyusha rockets Saturday at Israeli positions in South Lebanon on the third straight day of hostilities.

There was some material damage, but no casualties, security officials in Lebanon said.

Three Israeli soldiers were killed and eight wounded in shelling Friday claimed by the Muslim fundamentalist Hizbullah.

A day earlier, two Israeli troops died and three were wounded in an ambush claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) headed by Ahmad Jibril.

Israel Friday sent helicopter gunships to bomb a PFLP-GC base in retaliation and has threatened further action if the violence does not stop.

Saturday's Katyusha attack was claimed in a communiqué issued in Beirut by a Palestinian fundamentalist group that calls itself Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdis.

Security officials said that one of the Katyushas hit an Israeli army radio station near the coastal area of Ras Al Bayad, about eight kilometres north of the Israeli frontier. It caused only minor damage, the officials said.

Another rocket struck a water tank belonging to the Fijian battalion of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, a U.N. officer said.

The Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdis said it had fired two salvos of Grad rockets at a military target near Nahariya in northern Israel, "destroying it and causing casualties."

Gen. Mohammad Lamari, head of Algeria's anti-terrorist units, was appointed army chief of staff, replacing Gen. Abdul Malik Guenai, who was "given other duties." No new anti-terrorist chief was named.

Generals Nezzar, Lamari and Guenai all played an active role in the departure from office of former President Chadli Benjedid in January 1992 following

U.N. team confident of Iraq task

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD — A team of United Nations arms inspectors arrived in Baghdad Saturday and its leader said he was confident the Iraqis would allow it to seal missile test sites.

"I have every confidence that they will allow us to install the seals," Mark Silver, an American, told reporters.

Mr. Silver, a veteran of eight U.N. missions in Iraq, said the sealing of the stands Iraq used to test its missiles was an interim measure.

The U.N. ordered the sites closed after Iraq rejected a Security Council demand to have monitoring cameras installed.

Asked why he thought Iraq would accept the missile sealing, Mr. Silver said: "I have no reason not to believe at this point."

Mr. Silver, 41, was with Nikita Smidovich, a senior U.N. inspector who failed after a month of waiting to persuade Iraq to have the monitoring cameras set up at

the rocket sites.

Mr. Silver said his optimism was not shared by the U.N. Special Commission which is overseeing the scrapping of Iraq's weapons.

"This is a personal point," he said.

Mr. Silver said he planned on going Sunday to the firing range and seal equipment there and prevent Iraq from using them.

But first he would hold talks with the Iraqi authorities.

If Iraq blocked his mission the three experts would inform the U.N. commission charged with disarming Iraq and leave Baghdad immediately, Mr. Silver said.

The task of sealing the sites could be accomplished in one day and if all goes well the team could leave Iraq on Monday, added the U.N. expert.

He also reported that the Iraqi authorities had dismantled "fixtures" that are used to attach the engines of missiles at the test sites.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned Friday that the United States was ready to use force if Iraq refused to allow the inspectors to complete their task.

Baghdad said it would only allow surveillance cameras to be installed if it received concessions in return. It is seeking an end to U.N. sanctions imposed after the invasion of Kuwait three years ago, arguing it has complied with Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Christopher warned that "the use of force is entirely possible" if Iraq blocked the latest mission, emphasising that the U.N. Security Council would have to authorise any attack.

Iraqi Information Minister Hamed Yusef Hammadi said Saturday that Mr. Christopher and President Bill Clinton had been "ill informed" about the camera row.

Baghdad has not refused to allow their installation, but asked for postponement because of the weather.

(Continued on page 3)

Nezzar replaced as Algeria defence chief

Combined agency dispatches

ALGIERS — Khaled Nezzar, reputed strongman of the Algerian government, has been replaced as defence minister, a communiqué from the presidency said Saturday.

Former General Lamine Zeroual was named defence minister but the communiqué said Gen. Nezzar remains a member of the High State Council, Algeria's ruling council which is fighting a wave of Islamic militant violence.

Algerian newspapers said the new appointments were part of the High State Council's drive for "renewal," which was also highlighted in a speech by head of state Ali Kafi making independent day July 5.

The independent newspaper Al Watan and Le Matin reported the changes in their Saturday editions, saying others were in the works but providing no details.

There was speculation the shakeup may presage a new

approach to the problem posed by fundamentalists who have taken up arms against the leadership. The crackdown carried out under the state of emergency has failed to quell extremist attacks, which have recently increased and broadened to include intellectuals and figures connected to the regime among targets.

Gen. Nezzar, who suffers from a serious vascular problem, was the object of a failed assassination attempt last February.

(Continued on page 3)

Tighter sanctions on Libya unlikely

CAIRO (Agencies) — Western and Arab diplomats said Saturday tighter U.N. sanctions on Libya were unlikely soon despite recent consultations on the issue between the United States and its allies.

"Even if (the Americans) got Britain and France to agree, there's still Russia and China among the permanent (Security Council) members and then all the others. It's still very unlikely," said one Western diplomat.

Limited sanctions were imposed in April 1992 over Libya's refusal to hand over for trial in the United States or Britain two Libyans suspected in the bombing of a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

Libya also refused to cooperate with French investigations into another airfield bombing over Niger in 1989.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters at the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised nations he had spoken to G-7 foreign ministers about banning the sale of oil equipment and freezing some Libyan assets when U.N. sanctions come up for renewal on Aug. 15.

But diplomats said many developing countries, led by a vocal Arab and Muslim lobby, would object to what they saw as another instance of Western double standards in international affairs, and other states were not prepared to push the issue.

Many Arab and Muslim states are already outraged at what they view as Western indifference to the killing of Bosnian Muslims by Serbs, compared with the ready use of force to make an Arab state like Iraq comply with U.N. sanctions.

"I can only say there is a distinct impression of double dealing by the West," said an Arab diplomat.

The diplomats said the wording of the G-7's political communiqué was significant because it bracketed Libya in the same category as Iraq for violating international law.

"We are determined to keep up the pressure on Iraq and Libya to implement all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions in full," the statement said.

But the diplomats said strong U.S. statements on Libya were aimed mainly at persuading the American public that the Clinton administration is tough on perceived international terrorism at a time when the issue is hot at home.

"They'll be able to say 'at least we tried.' I think that's what they're aiming for," said one diplomat.

Arab and developing country support for Libya has actually hardened since the sanctions were last reviewed in April.

A summit of African leaders in Cairo last month criticised the suffering caused to the Libyan people by the sanctions and praised Tripoli's offer to hand over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing for trial in a neutral country.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday the United States wants tougher sanctions against Libya.

"I talked to my colleagues about stronger sanctions against Libya for the Pan Am 103 raid," said Mr. Christopher in a U.S. television interview from Tokyo.

Under U.N. Resolution 748, Tripoli has until Aug. 15 to extradite the two suspects in the bombing to either Britain or the United States.

"There can be more oil-related sanctions. There could be freezes on their assets," said Mr. Christopher.

The secretary of state declined to say how U.S. allies had responded, but said he was optimistic that there would be "something new in place" when the deadline expired.

Mr. Christopher said that he had met with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, with additional discussions expected in Paris.

Some European nations, particularly France, Germany and Italy, have commercial interests in Libya. U.S. oil companies are also present in Libya in the form of European subsidiaries.

With existing penalties set to expire on Aug. 7, "that's the kind of deadline which means they will either be extended or hopefully they will be increased or toughened," Mr. Christopher said.

Possibilities include an embargo of various oil equipment, like production or refining equipment, and also asset freezes might be effective, he said.

Mr. Christopher expressed hope that Libya would finally comply with the U.S. and U.N. demands.

"They send out a lot of emissaries offering various olive branches but none of them seem to develop in a way that would give any assurance that they want to comply," he said.

Clinton, Mitterrand meet

President Clinton raised the issue of expanding sanctions against Libya during his bilateral talks in Tokyo with French President Mitterrand, presidential counsellor David Gergen said Saturday.

"There has been some discussion... about the possibility of moving on the oil... or putting on the Libyans," Mr. Gergen told reporters. He said he would anticipate further conversations with France on this issue.

Security beefed up in Cairo after hangings

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police have deployed reinforcements around mosques and embassies in the Egyptian capital after the hanging of seven Islamic militants sparked threats of reprisal from the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group).

The group, which has spearheaded a campaign to overthrow the secular government, warned Thursday that President Hosni Mubarak was "digging his own grave" by executing the militants.

Mr. Mubarak was "providing good reason to kill him" by going ahead with the executions, a Gamaa communiqué said. His assassination would be a "legal act of justice and vengeance."

Security was beefed up around mosques and embassies in Cairo, notably the U.S. mission, where several police cars were parked.

Guards checked the bags of cinema and theatre-goers and similar precautions were taken at shopping centres across Cairo. Cars in parking lots of five-star hotels were searched.

The militants hanged Thursday were found guilty of plotting to overthrow the government and of an attack on a tour bus in the southern region of Qena in which six Germans and two Egyptians were wounded.

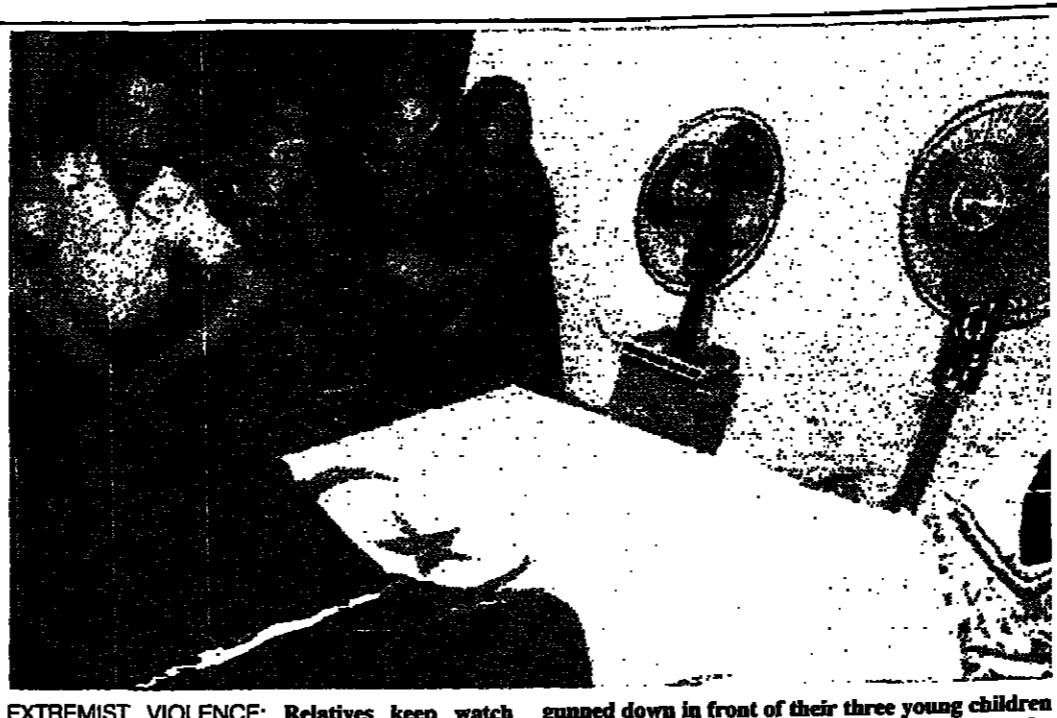
The Egyptian press applauded the hangings, saying they underlined the government's determination to crush a Muslim fundamentalist campaign that has killed around 170 people and crippled the vital tourism industry.

The executions, carried out without prior notice between 7 and 10 a.m. appeared to mark the largest group of persons executed for politically related crimes in Egypt's modern history.

The executions are clearly meant to persuade the Islamic Group, Egypt's most active underground Islamic movement, to halt its violent campaign to overthrow President Mubarak's secular government and install an Islamic state.

Two other militants were hanged last month, and 13 others sentenced to death at recent trials are likely to have their sentences carried out over the next two months, according to a report last week in the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper. Scores of other militants are on trial for capital offences.

Islamic Group supporters, however, said they regard the hangings as evidence of the government's weakness, and they warned that the executions will intensify their fight...



EXTREMIST VIOLENCE: Relatives keep watch Friday over the bodies of an agricultural engineer gunned down in front of their three young children in their isolated farm in the Boufarik region in the south of Algiers by suspected Islamic militants (AFP photo).

Brotherhood opposes Mubarak reelection

CAIRO (Agencies) — The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood Saturday opposed a third presidential term for Hosni Mubarak, blaming him for an economic slowdown and growing Western influence on Egypt.

The Brotherhood is the first opposition group to come out openly against the president. While it is unlikely to affect Mr. Mubarak's expected reelection unopposed, it reflects public discontent over the economy.

Though officially banned, the Brotherhood still is allowed to operate. Like other Muslim groups, it demands implementation of Islamic law, but it has rejected the violent campaign by Islamic extremists to topple Mr. Mubarak's secular government.

In a written statement, Brotherhood leader Hamed Abul Nasr listed a string of problems that he claimed Mr. Mubarak failed to solve during 12 years in power — unemployment, high prices, growing Western influence, instability.

Mr. Abul Nasr did not specify, but the instability is due to the extremist campaign that has left more than 180 people dead in the past 18 months. The campaign also has badly damaged the economy by crippling tourism.

Mr. Mubarak, who came to power in 1981 after Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat, has refused to say he will accept a third term but is widely expected to do so.

He blames many of his problems on the extremist campaign, which he says is supported by Iran and Sudan. He also argues, in reply to fundamentalists, that 90 per cent of Egyptian law already is based on the Sharia

Islamic code. The National Assembly, or parliament, is expected to convene July 21 to nominate Mr. Mubarak. Since opposition parties boycotted the last general elections, his National Democratic Party holds a majority in the 454-member assembly.

More than two-thirds of legislators already have signed a letter nominating Mr. Mubarak for a third term. That likely assures his reelection by referendum since no opponent can get the needed one-third parliamentary support to be nominated. He is expected to be sworn in for a third term before October.

Mr. Abul Nasr, whose group runs in parliamentary elections under the banner of the Socialist Labour Party, said the Brotherhood feels the electoral system is stacked in Mr. Mubarak's favour.

"We oppose the nomination of Mubarak for the presidency a third time, especially since the nomination comes from an assembly which we consider unconstitutional and not properly representative of the nation," Mr. Abul Nasr said in his statement.

He said that in 1987, when more than two-thirds also nominated Mr. Mubarak for reelection, opposition parties demanded the president implement Islamic law, change the electoral system and remove all restrictions on opposition political parties.

Mr. Abul Nasr said none of their demands had been met. Cairo newspapers on Saturday quoted Parliament Speaker Fathi Sourour as saying 441 out of 454 deputies signed a petition to put Mr. Mubarak's name forward in the parliamentary debate.

Rocket attacks kill 2, injures 25 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Rocket volleys slammed into residential areas of the Afghan capital, killing two people and injuring 25, state-run Kabul Radio said.

At least 44 rockets fired from the southwest of the city, which is controlled by the minority Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat party, hit Kabul overnight and Friday, the radio monitored in Islamabad said.

Several houses and a mosque were destroyed, it said.

Missile ransom sought

The Afghan abductor of two Chinese hydrologists has demanded three Stinger missiles and payment of more than \$220,000 for their release, official sources said in Pakistani town of Quetta Saturday.

He has also demanded the release of his brother jailed in Pakistan for gun running and the return of other weapons seized by Pakistani troops in a raid on his camp earlier this year, they said.

The Chinese, identified as Weng Chin Ping and Zheng Hong Pao, were abducted from the Bostan district, in southwestern Baluchistan province, on June 21.

Mullah Abdul Salam, nicknamed "Mulla Rocket," who belongs to the Hezb-e-Islami faction of Afghan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, conveyed his demands to an Afghan jirga (mediator team) which met him this week in the Afghan province of Zabul.

The abduction was to retaliate for Islamabad's alleged failure to pay the cost of his U.S.-supplied Stinger missiles as promised and their subsequent raid on his camp at Badin near here to recover the weapons.

Mullah Rocket claimed that the Pakistani militia troops had also seized six million rupees (\$20,000) from his house, besides some light arms in their raid.

The shoulder-carried anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, costing \$20,000, were supplied to the Afghan guerrillas by the United States for use against the former pro-Soviet regime deposed after 14 years of war in April 1992.

Reports from Washington said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was now buying back the Stingers lest they fall in the hands of anti-American countries, particularly Iran.

Mr. Salam is also holding hostage seven Pakistani government employees since last winter, saying he would also free them once his demands were met, the sources said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemeni and Bahraini labour ministers die

BAHRAIN (AP) — The labour ministers of Bahrain and Yemen died within a few hours of each other on opposite sides of the Arabian Peninsula, officials and news reports said Saturday. Sheikh Khalifa Ben Mohammad Al Khalifa, the Bahraini minister and a cousin of the emir's ruler, died early Saturday, the official Gulf News Agency said. The cause of death was not disclosed. Sources close to the family, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sheikh Khalifa died at his home in Manama. Sheikh Khalifa, who was 46, had been minister of labour since 1980. Yemen's labour minister, Mohammad Ali Haithem, died of heart failure Friday night at a hospital in Sanaa, officials in the Yemeni capital said. In 1969, Mr. Haithem was prime minister of South Yemen, which merged with North Yemen in 1990. He fled South Yemen when Marxists tightened their control. He was granted political asylum in Egypt, where he survived two assassination attempts by gunmen. Mr. Haithem, 53, had served only six weeks as Yemen's minister of labour, social affairs and insurance.

PLO students divided over Israeli contacts

TUNIS (R) — Divisions arose Saturday within the General Union of Palestinian Students over a meeting last month in Sweden between its leaders and the youth group of the Israeli Labour Party. Six of the 10 members of the Palestinian union's executive committee said in a statement they were opposed to the meeting. "It is a normalization of relations with the institutions of (Israel) occupation... and a violation of the national consensus," they said in a statement.

7 killed in Sudanese attack on Kenyans

NAIROBI (R) — Seven people were killed when hundreds of Sudanese cattle raiders fought with villagers in northern Kenya, police said Saturday. More than 300 Sudanese armed with automatic weapons stormed the frequently troubled region on Friday and seized 1,000 head of cattle and 1,300 goats, a police statement said. In the ensuing fight with Kenya's Turkana villagers, four of the raiders and three local people were killed, it said. The government rushed police and the paramilitary general service unit to pursue the cattle thieves, thought to be from famine-struck southern Sudan.

Iran, Ukraine sign transportation accords

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Ukraine have signed a series of agreements on road, sea and air transport, officials said Saturday. The agreement signed here on Friday between Iranian Transportation Minister Mohammad Sadiq Kia and his Ukrainian counterpart, Kelim Pushch, would allow Iran access to Ukraine's road network for sending goods to Western and Central Europe. The new route which passes through Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Russia, would also ease Iran's dependence on its western neighbour Turkey for links to Europe. Iran signed similar agreements with Azerbaijan and Russia in the past year.

At least 44 rockets fired from the southwest of the city, which is controlled by the minority Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat party, hit Kabul overnight and Friday, the radio monitored in Islamabad said.

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent offers condolences to Emir of Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday sent a cable to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifah, condoling him over the death of Ben Salman Al Khalifah.

Princess Rania meets NHF director

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdulla Al Hussein Saturday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) where she was familiarised with the foundation's projects and programmes in the fields of family planning, culture and education. Princess Rania had a meeting with NHF Director Inam Al Mufti and was briefed by her on the NHF role in supporting national development efforts. Her Royal Highness commended the role of the foundation and lauded its development projects.

Prince Ghazi visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad Saturday visited the Prime Ministry where he had a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Agriculture minister returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal Friday returned home after attending the opening ceremony of the British Royal Agricultural Fair, which was inaugurated in Yorkshire July 5. Dr. Kamal met during his stay in the United Kingdom with British Agriculture Secretary and several foreign officials attending the opening ceremony of the fair and discussed with them means of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and their countries in agricultural fields.

Amman to host conference on Arabic music

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of 13 Arab countries will gather in Amman next Saturday to attend the works of the 12th Arabic Music Academy (AMA) conference. AMA Secretary General Munir Bashir said Saturday. At a press conference held in Amman, Mr. Bashir said delegates from Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Somalia, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen and Oman will participate in the three-day conference, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). He said the participants will discuss several issues on Arabic music affairs, means of developing Arabic music and encouraging music production in the Arab World. At the meetings, organised by the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in cooperation with Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ), the participants will elect a new presidency and general secretariat for the AMA. Mr. Bashir said. He added that the general secretariat will present at the meetings a proposal on establishing a centre for bedouin music tradition in Jordan. Mr. Bashir explained that the Baghdad-based AMA, which was established in 1971, is an Arab League agency which includes all Arab states as members. The academy, he said, includes five main committees on musical education, traditional musical heritage, popular arts, musical production and historical studies. The AMA also cooperates with Arab and international organisations concerned with music activities such as the Arab Radio Stations League, the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Council of Music. The AMA's 11th conference was held in 1989 at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris. NMC Director Kifah Fakhouri commended the good relations between NMC and AMA, saying the conservatory in 1990 helped the AMA to organise an Arab Music parley, that, she said, encouraged AMA officials to hold their conference in Amman.

Omani, Jordanian TV officials discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Sultanate of Oman Television Khamis Ben Ahmad Al Musafer Saturday met with several officials from the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation and the Jordan Radio and Television Production Company. Mr. Musafer discussed with the Jordanian officials the prospects of seconding several Jordanian technicians to work in the Omani Ministry of Health's television production unit. Mr. Khamis arrived in Amman Thursday accompanied by Director General of the Omani Ministry of Health's Personnel Affairs Department Yousef Al Mujanni.

Jordan, European bank to discuss water projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the ministries of Planning and Water will Sunday leave for Luxembourg to hold talks with officials from the European Investment Bank on technical issues related to two water projects carried out in the Balqa governorate through financial help from the bank. Othman Al Kordi of the Ministry of Water said the Jordanian delegation will present to the bank designs, tender documents, feasibility studies and other papers on the JD 17 million projects.

50 poultry shops closed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Municipality has last week ordered the closure of 50 poultry shops for violations of health and public safety regulations. The closure orders come in the wake of an all-out campaign launched against violations of laws by shops selling and slaughtering live poultry. The municipality urged citizens not to buy poultry slaughtered outside Amman's slaughterhouses on the grounds that shops selling fresh poultry meat lack the needed veterinary facilities.

416 Jordanians employed through Aqaba labour office

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Labour and Employment Department has collected JD 122,000 in revenues during the past six months. Department Director Jamal Abu Tayeh said Saturday. Mr. Abu Tayeh said during the same period the department has granted 975 work permits and retrieved 153 expired permits. He said a total of 456 Jordanian job seekers have contacted the department since the beginning of the year, adding that 416 of them were employed since then.

QAF begins vocational training course

IRBD (Petra) — A course in manufacturing puppets and stuffed toys started Saturday at the Princess Basma Social Services Centre of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF). Centre Director Nabil Al Rousan said 15 female trainees from various social development centres are participating in the course, which aims at acquainting them with new skills. The course, he said, is considered as a good chance for dressmaking trainees and women to produce toys of good quality. The course will last for two weeks.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian plastic artist Marwan Al Allan at the Jordanian Writers Association.
- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshbeelia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Noelle Shawwa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of art works by Zuheira Zaqtan at Baladna Art Gallery.

Princess Sarvath urges efforts to allow Bosnian refugees access to universities

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Saturday urged the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) and other concerned departments to work towards allowing Bosnian refugees in Jordan to enter Jordanian universities and community colleges.

Speaking during her visit to the Khatibah Bint Al Alzwar school for girls where the Bosnian children are taking lessons in Bosnian language at the hands of Jordanian students who had studied in former Yugoslavia and Bosnian teachers living in Jordan.

Princess Sarvath's visit came on the heels of a meeting she held at the Bosnians Centre last week with representatives of non-governmental organisations operating in Jordan. The meeting was attended by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the U.N. Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organisation for Migration, the Middle East Council of Churches, CARE International and Save the Children's Fund.

Representatives of these organisations voiced appreciation for Jordan's efforts to help the Bosnian refugees and pledged support with donations of cash and other means.

Seminar warns against environmental pollution in refugee camps

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Saturday opened a seminar on health work and sanitation in Palestinian refugee camps with a call for the protection of the environment.

There has been an increasing damage to the environment to an extent that one can only think of appointing special guards to provide protection to the environment and prevent pollution," said the health minister in an address at the opening session.

Health and sanitary conditions in refugee camps, especially in the Gaza Strip, is deteriorating and environmental pollution is at its worst, said Dr. Arrabi.

He said these conditions pose a real danger to human life in the camps.

Dr. Arrabi said that the refugee camps in the occupied Arab lands lack sewerage systems and this is a cause of real concern to WHO and other concerned authorities.

Dr. Arrabi blamed the Israeli authorities for refusing to build sewerage systems in certain areas to the environment through the appointment of guards to dump the waste in the open sea, which in turn causes marine pollution.

WHO representative Hassan Al Baroudi told the meeting that the seminar was an attempt to familiarise the participants with better means of guarding against environmental pollution.

Participants in the two-week seminar will be discussing health and sanitary requirements and means of controlling the spread of rodents and insects among other important issues.

Engineering Firm to set up a multi-purpose hall, offices and ancillary infrastructure," said Dr. Abu Jaber Saturday.

The Community Development Centre, which will be located in Al Yatoudah south of Amman, will benefit the residents of the Yatoudah village and the towns of Jawa, Bayyat, Mqabil, Marj Al Hamam, Um Qasir and Taybeh, added Dr. Abu Jaber.

By setting up this centre YMCA aims to help develop the social and economic status of the local community, promote cultural and educational development

Rockets fired at Israeli positions

(Continued from page 1)

said that it had also fired katyusha rockets at an Israeli radar station inside the "security zone."

An Israeli army spokesman denied that any rockets had hit Israeli territory.

Israeli leaders are weighing the possibility of a heavy incursion into Lebanon.

They also warned that the fighting could further block the already stalled peace negotiations between Israel and Syria.

"The Israel defense force will not be placid with this for long," Ori Orr, head of the parliamentary committee for security and foreign affairs and former northern commander, said on Israel television Friday night.

"I don't rule out the possibility of extensive action," he said.

Israel Television said the atmosphere in Lebanon reached its boiling point, and quoted army chief of staff, Ehud Barak as saying, "it is war."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin together with the chief of staff, the northern commander and Israel's coordinator of affairs in

Jordan, Australia to adjust trade balance

AMMAN (Petra) — Western Australia is willing to develop its relations with Jordan, increase the volume of trade with the Kingdom and launch joint investment projects in various fields, visiting Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries in Western Australia Monty House said Saturday.

Saying that his country would be willing to benefit from Jordanian expertise in free zones affairs, Mr. House said that Australia and Jordan can carry out joint food processing industries and other schemes based on Jordanian phosphate and potash, said Mr. House at a meeting with Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket.

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Dr. Abdabi said that arrangements have been made with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) to prepare training programmes to the Bosnian families at the centre.

The princess later toured the Khatibah Bint Al Alzwar school for girls where the Bosnian children are taking lessons in Bosnian language at the hands of Jordanian students who had studied in former Yugoslavia and Bosnian teachers living in Jordan.

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Jordanian and Australian officials Saturday held talks on means of enhancing trade and economic relations between the two countries. The Jordanian side to the talks was headed by Minister of Primary Industry and Fisheries in Western Australia Monty House (Petra photo)

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Worship above politics

ON THURSDAY, the minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs urged mosque preachers to remain neutral as far as politics is concerned and to limit their sermons to explaining Islam to worshippers. Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi told preachers that they should not take sides with political factions and should promote dialogue among all people and groups in society. The minister was stressing the role of the mosque as a meeting place for all Muslims of different shades of opinion. The clear message was that, in an era of democracy and political pluralism, and in an age of uncertainty and search for identity and solutions to earthly problems, the mosque should play a more constructive role in advocating peaceful debate and tolerance among all citizens of this country.

But Thursday quickly gave way to Friday, on which day the list of mosque preachers in Amman showed that at least half a dozen were leading political figures, mainly Islamist deputies. One of course does not expect non-Islamists to preach at our mosques, but the hope has always been that no single party, least of all political, should have an edge over other parties at houses of worship.

There have been complaints recently that mosque preachers and speakers have used the pulpit to attack or demean certain political parties or groups. This places the mosque, the most frequented place, on one side of the political spectrum extending support to one side and withholding it from other Muslims. Minister Abbadi was conspicuously less explicit on this point but he still warned that "the sanctity of the mosques should not be harmed by any one or used to serve any personal or factional goals."

Now that elections have been set for November this year, the campaign which will start in earnest, cannot, by law, be conducted in houses of worship, be they mosques or churches. Words uttered in those places have to not only cleanse our souls of earthly matters and petty rivalries. They have to encourage leaving politics to be practised by politicians in political houses and arenas.

It is, therefore, the responsibility of the state to ensure that the message that emanates from the mosque is pious, wise and tolerant. Especially at this crucial time in our history, mosques and churches should not serve to favour one political faction over the other or take sides. Hence politicians and political activists should not be allowed to make use of the fact that they can reach the pulpit and others cannot. Minister Abbadi needs to do more than preach to preachers; he should make sure that the list of preachers that his ministry releases every Friday does not include politicians of any sort. This would leave places of worship free from electioneering and guarantee that politicians are seen as such and operating within their proper and legal context in society.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESPITE REPEATED pledges by the U.S. administration that it would play the role of full and active partner in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, nothing has been achieved during the 10th round where the Americans failed to live up to expectations, said Al Ra's daily Saturday. Indeed, Washington played a biased role towards Israel rather than playing a neutral role with the purpose of helping the two sides to achieve, a just peace, said the paper. Furthermore, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement Friday that his country was determined to remove the points of differences between the two sides is regarded as a warning from the Clinton administration to the Arabs to accept Israel's terms for a settlement, continued the paper. It said that the Palestinians are the party concerned here because they have been demanding that Jerusalem be placed on the agenda, a demand totally opposed by the Israeli government which has been responsible for the failure of the peace talks so far. The Americans, who are making these statements now are also responsible for the failure of the talks because they failed to honour their own commitment and also failed to pinpoint the party responsible for the failure, proving to the world that Israel's intransigence is the stumbling block in the path of peace, added the paper. The American document presented to the Palestinians adopted the Israeli views, disregarded the question of Jerusalem and overlooked the question of Jewish settlements, said the daily. It said the Palestinians and the Arabs have the full right to demand a clear American stand vis-à-vis the talks before agreeing to take part in further sessions.

COMMENTING ON a visit to Israel by U.S. peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross, Sawt Al Shaab daily said Saturday that the talks ended in deadlock due to Israel's intransigent position, and so the Ross mission has failed before the envoy started his tour of Arab capitals. The daily said that Israel has proven again and again that it refuses to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 224 and 338 which call for Israeli withdrawal from lands occupied since 1967, including the Arab part of Jerusalem. The Israelis have approved the American document, submitted to the Palestinians and the Israelis, concerning the autonomy rule for the Palestinians simply because it overlooked the status of Jerusalem, said the daily. It added that the American envoy has failed in his mission probably because he tried to make Israel budge from its present position and meet the Palestinians halfway. The paper said that Mr. Ross will now tour Cairo, Damascus and Amman to sound out their position with regard to the continuation of peace talks, but we believe that the big gap between the Arabs and the Israelis would prevent such continuation. The paper said that the Arab parties to the peace talks with Israel which plan to hold a meeting, following Mr. Ross's tour to assess the situation, should cling to their coordination and their collective demands that peace should be comprehensive on all tracks and based on the exchange of land for peace. It said these are the principles on which the U.N. resolutions were based.

Tahar Ben Jelloun, a Moroccan who has lived in Paris for the past two decades, is the author of seven novels and four volumes of poetry. Winner of the 1987 Prix Goncourt, his works have been translated into 25 languages. Following are excerpts of an interview conducted last week in Rome with Newsweek's Ken Shulman:

violence. The fear the French feel is imaginary, chimerical. Pasqua's demagoguery is merely an attempt to show the extreme right that the government is capable of taking a strong position.

Q: Why is the extreme right and the National Front so popular in France?

A: Any time there is a crisis, the people need to find a culprit. And this time the finger has been pointed at the immigrants, even though economists have demonstrated that immigration has nothing to do with the country's economic woes. Those are caused by the evolution of society, by modernity, by technology. by having to compete in an international market. Yet these concepts are hard to understand, and even harder to explain: it is much easier to tell an unemployed person that he has lost his job on account of an Arab. And this is not only on the extreme right. By now, the equation immigration>equals-unemployment>equals-crisis has been so widely repeated that people all across the political spectrum begin to believe it.

Q: The situation, as you describe it, is similar to that of Germany in the 1930s.

A: It is, but there are also several differences. German society in the '30s was much more frag-

mented than that of France today. It was still reeling from defeat in World War I, and there was nothing to stem the tide of racism once it began to swell. Today there are anti-racist associations and groups like Amnesty International that offer resistance to mass movements of racism. There was no resistance in the

France. Germany has no historic relationship with Turkey, while France has a long and tumultuous one with Algeria. In Germany, the extreme right movements are opposed to foreigners in general. This is more classic form of racism. In France, there are still memories of Algeria as a French colony. Many of the people who

Q: How would you begin the history of French immigration? With colonialism?

A: This is quite simple. Immigration is obviously a consequence of colonialism. The development of France was accomplished thanks to the sweat and labour of immigrants. What people tend to forget

day, you'll find a large percentage of names that are not French.

Q: The immigrant families you describe in your fiction often suffer from a lack of cultural identity.

A: It is inevitable that the immigrant loses his roots. Most of them are poor, illiterate people who come from remote villages in Morocco or Algeria or Tunisia.

They arrive in a western society with television, cinema, advertising, and they are totally lost. The situation is even more dramatic for their children who are born in France. Their parents are people who have been denied of everything, even of their history. They have no stories to tell, no books to recommend, nothing they can offer to counter the onslaught of French culture. Their children end up not knowing if they're Moroccan or French or something in between.

Q: Is there an alternative to immigration?

A: Development. If a country develops, it will no longer need to send its men abroad to work. It may not be in Europe's interest in the short run, but in the long run promoting development would be a good investment. Europe needs north Africa, just as it needs the southern Mediterranean. And it needs (them) now.



Out of balance

By Yosef Ben Aharon

The writer, a former director-general of the prime minister's office, headed Israel's negotiating team with Syria from the Madrid peace talks through June 1992. The following article is reprinted from the *Jerusalem Post*.

THE LATEST American document, which aims to bridge over the differences between Israel and the Palestinians, bears the distinct imprint of Dennis Ross and his close associates, Dan Kurtzer and Aaron Miller.

It is supposed to project a balanced approach, that takes both sides' views into consideration, ostensibly incorporating some "constructive ambiguity."

In fact, it is a blatantly one-sided document that satisfies many of the major Palestinian demands at the expense of vital Israeli interests.

I hasten to stress that one should not lay the blame for this turn of events at the doorstep of Dennis Ross and his colleagues. Primary responsibility for the contents of this document lies with our government which has hastened to make one-sided concessions throughout the last five rounds of negotiations, and was rewarded by deadlocks and ever-growing demands from the Palestinians.

It is the Israeli government that agreed to the inclusion of a Jerusalem Arab in the Palestinian delegation. It also agreed to the participation of a PLO member in the multilateral talks. It informed the Palestinians that the areas of Judea, Samaria (Israeli given names to the West Bank) and Gaza will be treated as one territorial unit, thus burying finally the Labour Party's commitment to "territorial concessions" on its political platform.

In addition, it accepted the concept of "interlock" between the interim stage talks and the permanent status negotiations, thus undermining the importance of the interim stage as a testing period of coexistence and cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians.

All these concessions run counter to the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords and the Madrid formula.

Furthermore, our government abolished the law banning meetings with PLO functionaries, while some of its ministers are openly calling on Rabin to meet with Yasser Arafat. Other ministers are intimating that they would not be averse to concessions even on Jerusalem if that were the last obstacle to an agreement.

Against this background, it is not surprising that the American "bridging" proposal takes us considerably closer to the ultimate Palestinian demands.

It has totally eroded the original concept of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian

side is treated on a par with Israel, in effect representing a sovereign entity in the making.

For the first time, Israel will be formally agreeing to the inclusion of Jerusalem on the agenda of the permanent status negotiations.

Contrary to the position of all previous Israeli governments, the Palestinian self-government body will be invested with legislative, in addition to executive, powers.

Both elements do not appear in the Camp David accords or in the Madrid formula, which were designed to provide the Palestinian body with administrative powers only.

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In all previous rounds of negotiations from Camp David on, it was understood that the residual authority, as well as responsibility for overall security of the areas in question, would remain in Israeli hands. In Camp David, the Palestinian police force was intended to "assist in providing... security." In the American document, however, there is no provision for the retention of the residual authority by Israel.

As for the critical issue of security, the document says: "The Israelis and the Palestinians agree that the security of both sides will be respected and strengthened through the negotiation process." In other words, Israel and the Palestinians are placed on an equal footing even with regard to security.

In sum, the latest American document, which purports to represent a set of principles agreed to by Israel and the Palestinians, is nothing short of a stepping-stone to an independent Palestinian state over all of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, probably under the control of the PLO, which would also wield some authority over Jerusalem.

To that can be added some matters of national pride: an extremely low rate of violent crime, high public health standards and low unemployment.

In my opinion, the seeds of Japan's downfall lie in what, until now, has been the secret of its success: immense bureaucratic influence," said Kazuo Inamori, chairman of the high-tech Kyocera Corp.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

LETTERS

Development can stop immigration

violence. The fear the French feel is imaginary, chimerical. Pasqua's demagoguery is merely an attempt to show the extreme right that the government is capable of taking a strong position.

Q: Why is the extreme right and the National Front so popular in France?

A: Any time there is a crisis, the people need to find a culprit. And this time the finger has been pointed at the immigrants, even though economists have demonstrated that immigration has nothing to do with the country's economic woes. Those are caused by the evolution of society, by modernity, by technology, by having to compete in an international market. Yet these concepts are hard to understand, and even harder to explain: it is much easier to tell an unemployed person that he has lost his job on account of an Arab. And this is not only on the extreme right. By now, the equation immigration>equals-unemployment>equals-crisis has been so widely repeated that people all across the political spectrum begin to believe it.

Q: The situation, as you describe it, is similar to that of Germany in the 1930s.

A: It is, but there are also several differences. German society in the '30s was much more frag-

mented than that of France today. It was still reeling from defeat in World War I, and there was nothing to stem the tide of racism once it began to swell. Today there are anti-racist associations and groups like Amnesty International that offer resistance to mass movements of racism. There was no resistance in the

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relationship with Turkey, while France has a long and tumultuous

one with Algeria. In Germany, the extreme right movements are opposed to foreigners in general.

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Man, nature threaten Cairo's history

By Natalie Angier

NEW YORK — With a splendid convergence of discoveries from a broad range of disciplines, biologists at last have sketched out the crucial events that tell us it is time to divide. They have traced the pilgrimage of a biochemical signal from the moment it impinges on the delicate skin of the cell, through to its arrival in the cell's deep nuclear soul, where the directive to multiply can be fulfilled.

In understanding this essential pathway of life after a quest of 13 years, molecular biologists are now gazing upon a fundamental revelation into how the body grows.

It turns out the signaling pathway of the cell is a kind of molecular comedy, in which one protein hooks up to a second protein that then jointly push a button on an enzyme that pushes a button on another enzyme that makes this knob slide into that hole.

The design works wondrously in overseeing cell growth, so well that it is shared by species as diverse as yeast, worms, flies and humans. And as a recent deluge of reports makes clear, scientists are elated at last to have cracked the puzzle of the cellular event known as the "activation of the ras pathway."

The pathway is a series of molecular reactions that begins with a stimulatory compound in the blood system tweaks a protein on the surface of a cell and ends with new cell growth. The ras pathway is the principal circuitry through which a signal to divide reaches central headquarters in the cell's nucleus, although scientists believe that other subsidiary growth pathways may exist.

At the heart of the long, intricate pathway is the ras protein, which is so central to cell growth that defects in the protein are

thought to account for up to a third of all human cancers. In some cases, such as tumors of the pancreas and colon, from 50 to 90 per cent may result from a mutational blow to the gene that makes the ras protein.

In the past several months, dozens of reports on the ras pathway have appeared in major journals. At the annual meeting on the genetics of cancer in Frederick, Maryland, presentations on the ras cascade dominated the sessions.

"There is more known now about the ras pathway by far than about any other pathway in the cell," said Dr. Michael Wigler of Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbour, New York, an early pioneer in the study of the ras gene. "There has been a great advantage in having so many people studying the problem, because there are things that come out in the details that are precious."

Indeed, the details are the breath and blood of the story. It is one thing to know in fuzzy outline what happens to make a cell divide; it is quite another to know which proteins comport with which and in what order that are precious."

"There are still gaps in our understanding, and a few links are still obscure," said Dr. Robert A. Weinberg of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "But I did manage to draw all this up in one glorious wiring diagram recently and present it at a talk."

The wiring of the cell, he said, "is no longer any more inaccessible to study than the wiring of a transistor radio."

And while much of the latest work focuses on a basic understanding of the ras communications system, two papers published in the current issue of the journal *Science* suggest the work may be swiftly translated into real

cancer therapies.

In the reports, researchers announced that, in test-tube results, they were able to block a step necessary for the ras protein to convey a cancerous signal to the nucleus. Using small synthetic peptides or drugs, distantly related to Valium, the scientists prevented the ras protein from finding its proper niche just inside the membrane of the cell, a positioning essential if ras is to operate as the mastermind of a signaling cascade.

And while the drugs can also interfere mildly with the performance of the protein in healthy cells, for a variety of reasons, the inhibitory effect is vastly amplified in cancer cells, depriving them of the power to divide lawlessly and returning them to a seemingly normal state.

In their ability to home in on a specific part of a signaling pathway in cells, rather than merely attacking and killing anything that divides, as standard chemotherapy drugs do, the new compounds approach the silver bullet method of which biologists and doctors have long dreamed.

The new therapeutics will not be ready for human trials for two to three years, said Allen Oliff, the executive director for cancer research at Merck Research Laboratories in West Point, Pennsylvania, and the preliminary observations may never come to anything. Nevertheless, he said, "I'm an oncologist, and from my viewpoint it's the most exciting thing I've seen in the last 15 years."

Dr. Oliff and a colleague, Dr. Jackson B. Gibbs, led the team responsible for one of the two science reports. The other study came from a collaboration between the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas and Genentech Inc. in South San Francisco. Researchers elsewhere are seeking dif-

ferent Achilles' heels along the ras cascade. The initial work on the ras gene began around 1980, when scientists realized that the gene could contribute to cancer and thus merited a designation as an oncogene. Like most of the 50 other known oncogenes, the ras gene was named after the animal species and tumor type in which its nefarious effects were first discovered — in this case, as the

cause of a rat sarcoma, or connective-tissue cancer.

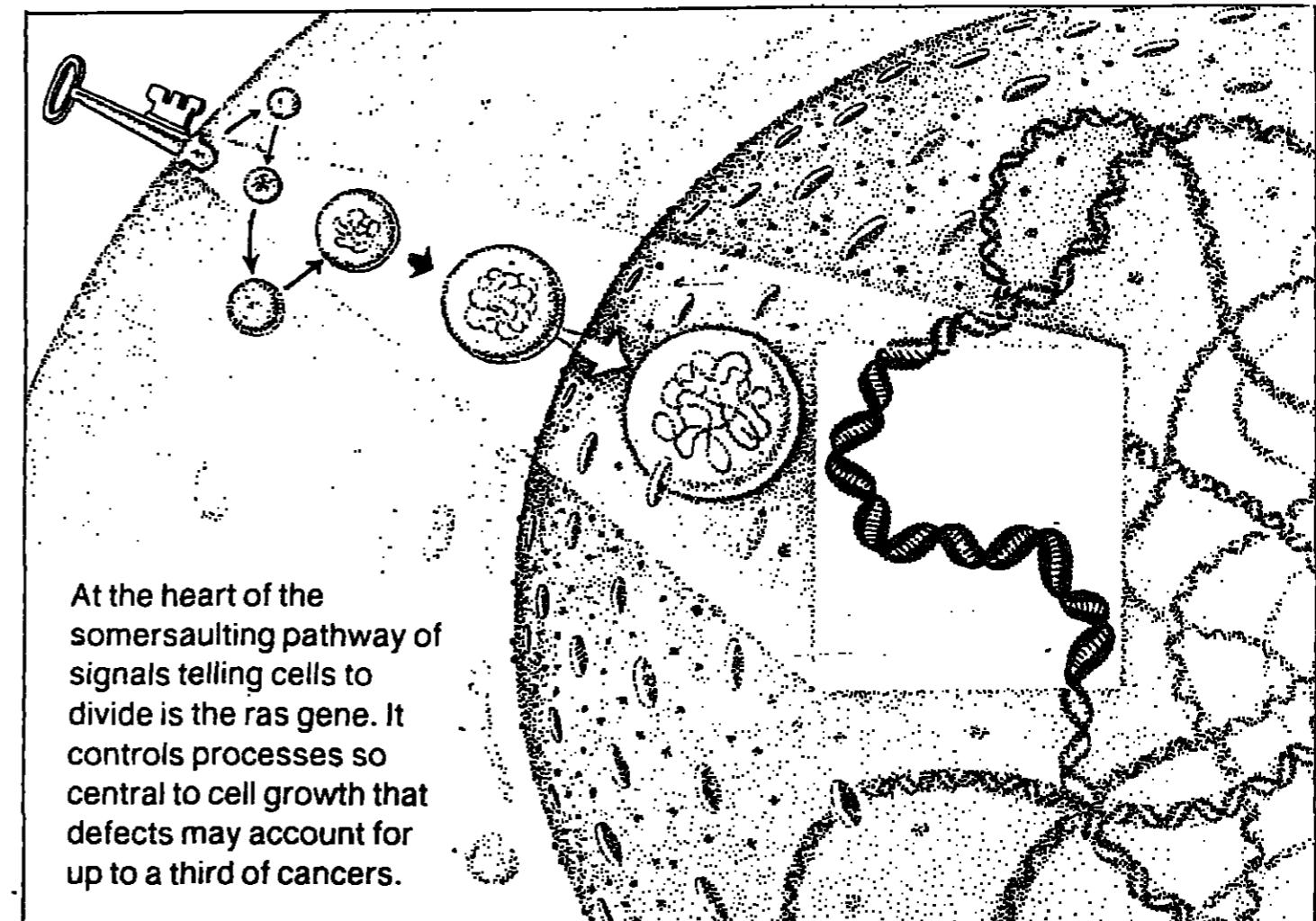
Biologists discovered that the only difference between a robust version of ras that is vital to life, and the malevolent version that helps cause cancer, is a single subunit, or base pair, out of the many thousands of base pairs that make up the gene.

Normally, when the ras protein is in an inactive state, it clasps a

small molecule called GDP. Upon being elbowed into action by a stimulant like a growth factor, the protein tosses away the GDP and picks up a more active molecule called GTP from the cell's own cache, an exchange that allows the ras protein to pass its excitatory message along towards the nucleus.

Once its transmission chore is

through, the ras protein obligingly switches itself off, using a bit of its own enzymatic machinery to transform the active GTP into the more sedate molecule, GDP. The point mutation destroys this act of self-control, leaving ras always gripping GTP and thus in an incessantly stimulated condition — whether an external signal to grow is there or not — International Herald Tribune.



Memories are made of a million million connections

By Steve Connor

THE MAKING OF MEMORY

By Steven Rose
Bantam Press £16.99

As Steven Rose, author of *The Making of Memory* (Bantam Press), this year's winner of the Science Book Prize, says: "No memory within a computer could survive such a complete turnover of all the machine's constituent parts. Somehow, just as the shapes of our bodies persist despite the ceaseless ebb and flow of their molecular components, so do our memories, embedded in the structure and processes of the brain."

Professor Rose, a neurobiologist at the Open University, has spent most of his professional life trying to understand how the brain remembers. He works on the brains of new-born chicks, who at a few days old can be trained simple memory tasks, such as learning to avoid coloured beads from the memory of having once pecked at one soaked in a bitter substance.

Sophisticated instruments that can detect minute amounts of substances in the chicks' brains help him to compare a chick with a certain memory of an event with one that has no such memory.

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memories do not stay put in one place after they are formed, but divide into multiple copies of themselves and wander off around the brain, perhaps with different parts of the experience stored in different places, in much the same way that a secretary might photocopy an important document and send copies to relevant departments.

Scientists now believe in a "connectionist" view of the brain, where the millions upon millions of nerve cells act as a vast network or grid. Professor Rose and his colleagues suggest that sensations, from a bitter-tasting substance to the death of a loved one, stimulate electrical activity in nerve cells that trigger new connections to sprout between

the cell. This constant rewiring of the brain, and the need to keep it primed for electrical activity, could account for why it is such an energy-hungry organ. Could the new connections also be the physical manifestation of memory?

The truth, no doubt, will prove more complex than this. The power of the human brain remains one of the greatest achievements of natural selection. Each of us can, for instance, recognise up to 10,000 human faces — one Roman general, Publius Scipio, was said to be able to put names to his entire army of 35,000 men.

But most of us are not Scipio-like. Somehow the brain carefully filters out the important things in life for long-term storage. The trivia gets weeded out, or so we hope. (How many times has an idiotic tune haunted you for days on end?)

For all its importance, the brain remains an enigma. We know it consists of about ten thousand million nerve cells and there are ten million million

membrane in a pictorial form. This is lost in older life. A 30-year-old man has memories of being a 10-year-old child that are quite different from the way a 50-year-old man remembers being 30 — even though the time difference is the same.

We thus return to the brain as a filter of perceptions. Adults use their brains as much to get rid of experiences as to remember them. Whether we will ever really understand how it does this will remain conjecture for some time to come.

Professor Rose believes we should eventually learn the secrets of our own minds, but only by first looking at simpler forms of life. "In researching my chicks' memories, I can begin to make sense of my own," he writes — *The Independent*.



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The Amman Bank for Investments (ABI) has recently signed a licensing Agreement with ACT Kindle, the internationally Known software development firm, whereby ABI will acquire Kindle's Bank Master and Branch Power software systems in addition to other more specialized systems that would provide ABI with state of the art fully automated commercial and investment banking operations.

ABI will be shortly expediting a delegation of specialists to ACT Kindle head office in Dublin to be trained for the implementation of the agreement which eventually will enhance ABI's capacity to produce and market advanced banking services which ABI is known to deliver with care and responsibility.

Clinton threatens U.S. action if N. Korea leaves nuclear pact

SEOUL (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton Saturday warned North Korea the United States will take punitive steps — most likely an economic embargo — if it withdraws from a treaty aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Clinton met South Korean Kim Young-Sam for talks that focused on the possible withdrawal by North Korea from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which requires participants to open their nuclear sites to outside inspection.

He also vowed that there will be no reduction in the size of U.S. forces in the region as long as North Korea poses a danger and told the nation's National Assembly that "our troops will stay here as long as the Korean people want them here."

Within hours after he arrived in South Korea following an economic summit in Japan, Mr. Clinton sternly warned that he would not tolerate a nuclear threat from North Korea.

"North Korea must understand our intentions," Mr. Clinton told the Assembly. "We are seeking to prevent aggression, not to initiate it."

"As long as North Korea abides by the U.N. charter and

international non-proliferation commitments, it has nothing to fear," he said.

Although Mr. Clinton did not mention specific steps the United States might take against North Korea, administration officials said actions under consideration include economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

During an exchange with reporters after the talks with Mr. Kim, Mr. Clinton said the possible withdrawal "is of great concern not only to the United States and the Republic of Korea, but to all in this region."

"We are resolute to take additional steps if they are required," said Mr. Clinton, who has stressed U.S. determination to provide security to the Pacific region during his trip to Japan and South Korea.

The United States resumes talks with Pyongyang on July 14 in a bid to persuade them to continue honouring the international treaty that went into force in 1970. The pact requires inspections of nuclear sites to ensure they are not being used for weapons development.

"The key issue is inspections," said a senior U.S. official accompanying Mr. Clinton to Korea.

Asked if the United States was using a carrot-and-stick strategy towards North Korea, the official said: "The potential stick would be U.N. sanctions — economic sanctions."

U.S. officials are concerned that North Korea's actions have been prompted by efforts to hide evidence of a nuclear weapons programme.

"No spectre hangs over this region more darkly than the danger of nuclear proliferation," Mr. Clinton told the National Assembly.

Saying that nearly 160 nations have signed the nuclear treaty, Mr. Clinton said it was "the most universally supported treaty in all history."

He said North Korea's threat to withdraw represented the first time any nation has considered abandoning the accord. "We urge North Korea to reaffirm its commitment to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty," Mr. Clinton said.

The U.S. president said there would be no reduction in America's 37,000 troops in South Korea "as long as there is any outstanding question of security regarding this issue" of nuclear arms.

Mr. Clinton told reporters he believes "China can play a constructive role" in trying to persuade North Korea to honour the treaty. Peking is one of the few governments in the world that has sanctions in the world that has

international non-proliferation commitments, it has nothing to fear," he said.

U.S. officials believe China has been exerting a positive influence on North Korea not to withdraw from the nuclear treaty.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 South Korean farmers and students rallied at a downtown cathedral hours after the arrival of President Clinton here Saturday to protest U.S. pressure on Seoul to open up its closed rice market.

The protesters sat outside the Yongsong Roman Catholic Cathedral chanting slogans and passing out copies of an open letter addressed to Mr. Clinton demanding that Washington recognise South Korea's right to rice self-sufficiency.

The colourfully dressed farmers, some with their wives and children, then set off on a two-kilometre march through the streets to the city's Pagoda Park. Riot police stood at a distance but did not try to stop them, witnesses said.

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Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic collapses after waving supporters from the Belgrade clinic window Friday after the announcement of his release from detention (AFP photo)

Bosnian leaders expected to reject partition

ZAGREB (R) — The main body of Bosnia's collective presidency arrived in Zagreb Saturday and were expected to tell international peace envoys they have rejected a plan for the three-way ethnic partition of their country.

"We will tell them (the mediators) we want to go back to the London conference and stick to the basic principles of that conference," Muslim Vice-President Ejup Ganic said.

Mr. Ganic and five other members flew into Zagreb on a U.N. military plane and were whisked away to meet three other members already in the Croatian capital ahead of talks with mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

The presidency was expected to ratify the unanimous decision of seven members in Sarajevo Friday to reject a Serbo-Croat plan to divide Bosnia into three mini-states.

"The ethnic division of Bosnia has been refused," Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic told reporters Friday, adding that he would stay behind in Sarajevo because of "urgent business."

"The presidency has accepted the proposal according to which Bosnia-Herzegovina would be constituted according to a federal state," he added.

Mr. Stoltenberg, who flew into Zagreb to join Lord Owen at the meeting with the presidency Saturday afternoon, has said the alternative to negotiations is intransigence.

It was not clear what time the presidency would meet the international mediators. Mr. Ganic did not say what he expected the next step would be after their talks.

Bosnian Serbs and Croats have threatened a two-way division of Bosnia if the Muslims fail to accept the plan.

Mr. Izetbegovic also proposed reconvening the London conference on Bosnia, saying that the government's conditions for participating were a complete ceasefire and free passage of humanitarian convoys.

He rejected suggestions that the Muslim-led Bosnian army was on its last legs after 15 months of civil war, saying: "The fight is only finished once you capitulate."

Fighting continued Saturday across the republic, notably in the northern tip of central Bosnia.

The Croatian News Agency (HINA) said Croat troops and civilians in Konjic managed to break a Muslim siege and were heading towards Przozor.

It said most Croat villages in the area were torched, all were looted and more than 20 ethnically cleansed.

The outright rejection of partition by the Bosnian leadership was a surprise, as Mr. Izetbegovic had indicated in a radio interview Thursday that Bosnia might have to accept the plan, if it was imposed, to avoid endless war.

The besieged capital was reported close to collapse, with no gas or electricity and diminishing water supplies.

Bosnian Muslim Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, who also flew into Zagreb Saturday, angrily hit out at the West for its "policy of containment" while Sarajevo was being strangled.

"I expect the world to know people in Sarajevo don't even have water and the policy of containment of the Bosnian conflict is wrong and counter-productive for the peace talks."

"What we have in Sarajevo is genocide and this episode in Bosnia will be one of the blackest spots in the whole of human history," he said.

Relief officials say the situation in Sarajevo has deteriorated rapidly in the past two weeks as Serb forces have blocked and hijacked fuel deliveries, cutting off power for hospitals and water pumps.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said the population faced "the very real threat of death not only by bombs and bullets but by thirst, disease and starvation."

The Bosnian Serb army has refused to release three tankers of Diesel destined for hospitals and a brewery pumping fresh water from an underground spring. The brewery was almost out of fuel.

The World Health Organisation was expecting a shipment of two million chlorine tablets to be distributed to people drinking contaminated water.

Croatian radio reported that five people had already contracted typhus and there were 750 registered dysentery cases. It predicted that an epidemic was imminent.

English teacher eyes life as a millionaire

FOND DU LAC, Wisconsin (AFP) — A 30-year-old English teacher apparently netted the biggest lottery jackpot in U.S. history — and rushed off to Florida after finding out he had won \$111 million. Leslie Robins' parents confirmed a report in The Reporter of Fond du Lac that their son apparently had drawn the lone grand-prize winning ticket. The newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, said Mr. Robins and his fiancee left town to avoid reporters. The only ticket to match all the numbers in the Powerball game, played in 14 states and the District of Columbia, was bought at Sentry Food Store-South in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, according to the state's lottery office.

The winner has 180 days to claim the prize. "I figure they have their reasons and are trying to step back and take a couple of clear breaths before they step forward and do something quite remarkable," said state lottery spokesman Steven Madsen. Joe Sagen, a friend of Mr. Robins, said they went to a bar after the drawing to celebrate — adding that Mr. Robins accidentally left his wallet — with the ticket in it — in Mr. Sagen's car until the next morning, when he collected it. "We talked about ideas and what he wants to do," Mr. Sagen said. "He's a generous guy. He will make the right decisions."

Old masters sell for record prices

LONDON (R) — A sale of old masters paintings produced record prices for three artists, confirming a demand for traditional painters and quality works.

Christie's auction house said: "An anonymous buyer paid £705,500 (£1.05 million) for Winter Landscape by Salomon van Ruyssdael, a cousin of the master Jacob van Ruyssdael. Wood Landscape With Diana And Actaeon fetched £551,500 (£817,300) and Antonio Joli's Castel Sant' Angelo And Ponte Sant' Angelo sold for £441,500 (£634,300)."

"This traditional area of the market appeals to collectors rather than investors," said a spokeswoman for Christie's. "The sale reaffirms an interest in traditional artists and quality." Canaletto's The Bacino Di S. Marco, although not a record, brought in the highest price at £716,500 (£1.06 million).

Rome's Via Veneto to become pedestrian zone

ROME (R) — Rome's Via Veneto, the glittering backdrop for Federico Fellini's 1954 film *La Dolce Vita*, and once the playground for paparazzi in search of movie idols, will be permanently closed to traffic from Aug. 1. "Closing the street is a first step toward improving life in Rome," said Alessandro Voci, a city official.

The avenue, whose cafes once hosted film stars Marcello Mastroianni and Brigitte Bardot, is now choked by traffic and offers few places to sit. Mr. Voci said the plan, if it was imposed, to avoid endless war.

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Georgia reports successes against Abkhaz rebels

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Saturday attacked the Russian parliament for claiming the Ukrainian naval port of Sevastopol, and Ukraine's ambassador to Moscow compared the move to the shot that triggered World War I.

The conservative parliament voted overwhelmingly Friday to proclaim Sevastopol — base of the Black Sea Fleet and the town where it is based — must be solved both calmly and gradually," he said. "Otherwise, what do you want me to do — fight with Ukraine?"

Mr. Yeltsin, who wields executive power in Russia, is involved in a power struggle with parliament and is unlikely to pay the resolution much attention.

But a fresh quarrel with Ukraine would be an unwelcome distraction as he struggles to draw up a new constitution for the country which would give him considerably more power.

The vote sparked a predictably angry response from Ukraine.

Volodymyr Kryzhanovsky, Ukraine's ambassador to Moscow, told TASS Saturday that the resolution could be compared to "Gavrilo Princip's shot in Sarajevo."

Mr. Yeltsin convened a special Constitutional Assembly last month to draw up the draft of the new constitution. The body is due to hold its final plenary session Monday.

In Kiev, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk Friday denounced as illegal the Moscow parliament's claim to Sevastopol as Russian property and said it threatened stability throughout the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Kravchuk called on the international community to reject the resolution, approved without a single dissenting vote, and

pledged Ukraine would react "appropriately".

"This decision violates all international norms and has no legal force, in accordance with the Helsinki and other accords," Mr. Kravchuk said on television after an emergency meeting with top Ukrainian leaders.

"Ukraine rejects it as it is at variance with the interests of the Ukrainian people and violates our territorial integrity."

The United States Saturday criticised the Russian parliament's claim to Sevastopol, saying the port city was an integral part of the Ukraine.

"Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has made clear his intention concerning good bilateral relations with Russia," said a statement issued by U.S. Ambassador Roman Popadiuk. "This is no time for the Russian parliament to be attempting to strain that relationship. Sevastopol is an integral part of Ukraine."

Mr. Popadiuk's statement, delivered to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, was issued after President Boris Yeltsin disowned the action of his conservative parlia-

ment.

The resolution asks that U.N.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali

send an envoy to help establish the ceasefire and begin making preparations for the 50 observers.

night.

"Fierce battles are continuing in eastern Abkhazia," said a ministry statement carried by Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency.

The U.N. Security Council Friday unanimously approved dispatching 50 military observers to Georgia once a ceasefire paves the way for the first U.N. peacekeeping venture in the former Soviet Union.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

CSCE mission arrives in Baku

MOSCOW (AFP) — A CSCE mission on the war-torn enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh led by Mario Raffaelli arrived Saturday in Baku for talks with Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev, the agency Interfax said. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) mission — called the Minsh group — is then due to go to Yerevan in Armenia, as well as to Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijani town of Agdam virtually under siege by Nagorno-Karabakh's ethnic Armenia forces. The CSCE is trying to enforce a peace plan which has been accepted by all the parties in the conflict. Under the plan a ceasefire would be called, ethnic Armenia forces would withdraw from the territory they have occupied outside Nagorno-Karabakh and negotiations would start on ending the war. The conflict in the Armenian-populated enclave broke out in 1988, and has now spread into southern and western Azerbaijan. It is the longest running conflict in the former Soviet Union.

N. Korean team leaves for Geneva

TOKYO (R) — A North Korean delegation, headed by First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-Ju, left Pyongyang Saturday for Geneva to attend talks with the United States, the official Korean Central News Agency said. The North's chief delegate and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci are due to resume negotiations Wednesday in Geneva in an effort to settle a dispute over Pyongyang's refusal to allow inspections of its suspected nuclear sites.

N. Ireland bomb attempts foiled

BELFAST (R) — The British army thwarted a car bomb attack close to Belfast's City Hall and defused another car bomb in the east of the city, police said Saturday. Police also said they fired plastic bullets at youths rioting in Portadown, southwest of Belfast. The attempted bombings appeared to be the latest in a series of strikes by the Irish Ireland bus this week. The bomb found in a stolen taxi near the City Hall Friday night contained around 300 lb (350 kg) of explosives and was made safe. The army also defused a 500 lb (225 kg) bomb planted in a stolen car early Friday outside a hotel in East Belfast. That bomb was near the gates of Stormont Castle, a symbol of British rule in Northern Ireland and a prime target of IRA guerrillas.

Liberia peace talks open in Geneva

GENEVA (AFP) — Peace talks to end the civil war in Liberia opened at the United Nations buildings here Saturday in the presence of mediators from the U.N. and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The talks to end the three-and-a-half year conflict in the devastated West African nation are being attended by all the main parties involved, and it is the first time that the U.N. and the OAU have joined the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the search for a peace settlement. U.N. officials said the talks, expected to last about one week, were aimed at "reducing tensions and establishing an atmosphere of trust," so that the Yamoussoukro Peace Accord signed in Ivory Coast last October could be implemented.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bright wins Irish Oaks

DUBLIN (R) — French challenger Wemyss Bright Saturday won the Irish Oaks to avenge her Epsom Oaks defeat by stable companion Intrepidity. The filly, a 9-2 chance ridden by Dubliner Pat Eddery, won the 160,000 classic by a hard fought half length from 12-1 shot Royal Ballerina with Oakmead, at 15-2, four lengths further back in third. Intrepidity, an impressive winner of looked dangerous on the galloping Curragh track and the 11-10 favourite eventually finished fourth without ever delivering a serious challenge. Wemyss Bright, trained in France by Andre Fabre, was the second classic success in Ireland within two weeks for Saudi Arabian Prince Khaled Abdullah who said: "I feel great. I am delighted." And well he might because the man of the moment in European horse racing has already won the English 2,000 Guineas with the champion Miller Zatonic and landed the Epsom-Irish Derby double with Commander in Chief. But he must still have one major regret about the impressive victories of Commander in Chief and Wemyss Bright — their sire, the Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe winner Dancing Brave, was sold to Japan before his stud career began to sparkle.

Agassi's coach resigns

NEW YORK (R) — Last year's Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi has been dropped by his coach Nick Bollettieri, the New York Times reported Saturday. Bollettieri, 61, resigned as Agassi's coach by letter, saying the distance between them made his job too difficult. "To help him get back to where he used to be close contact," Bollettieri, 61, told the Times. Agassi, 23, lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, while Bollettieri's base is his Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Florida. "There's a space between us," he told the Times. "It's not like it used to be. Whether he'll ever reach his greatest potential, no one knows." Bollettieri has coached the strangle-haired tennis heart throb for the past two years. Agassi dedicated his 1992 Wimbledon title to his coach and his father. However, Agassi has been getting tennis advice on an informal basis from former world number one John McEnroe and when entertainer Barbara Streisand became part of his support group too, Bollettieri felt displaced, according to the Times.

Sabatini shocked in Osaka semifinals

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Hard-hitting American Lisa Raymond upset top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina Saturday in the women's semifinals of the Gunze World Tennis tournament, while men's top seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic breezed into the finals. Korda, ranked ninth in the world, beat Australian Mark Woodford 7-5, 6-2 in 67 minutes on an artificial court at the Osaka Municipal Gymnasium in western Japan. Raymond, 19, of Wayne, Pennsylvania, ranked No. 49 in the world, shocked fifth-ranked Sabatini 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the women's semifinals. Leading 5-1 in the third set, Raymond and Sabatini were tied 30-30 when Raymond gained a point with a service and fired an ace to wrap up the one hour, 34 minute match. "It was a nice match. She played so well," said Sabatini, who skipped a doubles match Friday because of a fever. Raymond faces South African Amanda Coetzer in the women's final Sunday.

Prost on pole for British Grand Prix

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Alain Prost, seeking a record 50th Formula One win in Sunday's British Grand Prix, claimed pole position for the race Saturday. Frenchman Prost, driving a Renault-powered Williams, demonstrated his supremacy with a fastest lap of one minute 19.006 seconds at an average speed of 238.13 kph in the closing stages of a thrilling session. Prost and his Williams team mate Damon Hill were vying for pole throughout the final 12 minutes and they traded fastest laps and lead positions until the 54th minute of the hour-long session when Prost clocked the quickest lap of the day. It was the triple world champion's 28th pole position and gives him a perfect opportunity to score his half century and in-

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH
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A SKILL THAT ENDURES

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♦ Q 9 8
▼ A 10 9
○ 9 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 3
WEST
♦ K J 10 5 2 4
▼ 7 6
○ K Q J 5 2
♦ Q J 8 6 5 4
SOUTH
▲ A 7 6 3
▼ 8 4 3
○ A K
♦ A K 10 9
The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Dbl
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠
At the Second World Bridge Olympiad in 1984, a fresh-faced young man just out of college made a great impact on the world bridge scene. Now 28 years later at the recently completed Ninth World Olympiad in Salzbourg, Austria, Bob Hoffman is still showing the form that made him the top-ranked American in the World Bridge Federation standings.
The one-club opening bid was artificial, showing a hand of at least 17 points. North's double confirmed some values and South's rebid described a balanced 17 to 20 points. North then boldly jumped to game.

in the expectation that his diamond suit and two entries (the king of spades was marked with West) would produce enough tricks for game.

Sure that his opponents had spades well guarded, West elected to lead a low club. Hoffman soon proved that to be a fatal choice. The opening lead made it likely that West was in the black suits, so declarer knew that the diamonds were not breaking.

After winning the first trick cheaply, declarer led a low spade. West shot up with the king to lead a heart, but it was too late. Declarer played low from dummy, East won the jack and reverted to a club, taken with the king. On a low spade lead West was forced to split his honors, the queen winning. Next came the key concession of another heart.

East won and returned a club to South's ace. Hoffman cashed the ace of hearts and the two high diamonds, forcing West to come down to J of spades and the queen of clubs. To complete a brilliant exhibition, Hoffman threw West in with a club, disconnecting the nine of spades from the table. Now West was forced to lead away from the jack of spades into declarer's A-7 tenace. Hoffman scored three spades tricks, one heart, two diamonds and three clubs in a bravura performance.

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Novacek topples Muster at Swiss Open

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP) — Karel Novacek continued his career-long jinx on Thomas as he scored his fourth victory in a row over the Austrian to reach the Swiss Open final here Saturday. Novacek, the third seed from the Czech Republic, frustrated clay court specialist Muster as he found the lines on the big points almost at will for a 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) victory. The second seeded Austrian needed heat cream treatment on his left shoulder after the first game of the second set, but the most successful clay court player this year still couldn't hide his frustration afterwards. "He was magic today," the Austrian said. "He found the line on almost every big point. What can I do about that?" Novacek, ranked 14th in the world, moved into his fifth final of the year and credited his win to using a tried and tested strategy against his rival. "I played him exactly as I have played him before," said the 28-year-old. "I kept the points short and didn't let him get into any big rallies."

Herrera goes on to Newport semifinals

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — No. 2 Luis Herrera of Mexico overcame the heat and humidity to beat Arne Thoms of Germany 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (7-5), 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the Hall of Fame Championships. With the victory, Herrera earned the right to play third-seeded Javier Frana of Argentina in Saturday's semifinal. Frana defeated amateur Brian MacPhie of San Jose, Calif., 6-7 (7-2), 6-4, 6-3 Friday. In the other semifinal match Saturday, No. 5 Alex Antonisch of Austria will meet Greg Rusedski of Canada.

Polish team may lose title

WARSAW (R) — Polish soccer's governing body Friday recommended docking two points from league champions Legia Warsaw and second-placed LKS Lodz after a bribery scandal — a move that would strip Legia of the title. The Polish Football Association (PZPN) board announced the decision after seven hours of talks but said it would not be final until the PZPN heard appeals by Legia and LKS at a special meeting. If the recommendation is accepted, the championship will go to Lech Poznan who originally finished two points behind Legia and LKS in third place, but have a better goal difference.

S. African Grand Prix cancelled

GENEVA (R) — The South African Motorcycle Grand Prix, final event of the World Championship on Oct. 3, has been cancelled, the International Motorcycling Federation (FIM) said. "The race was cancelled because of financial problems and the current political instability," said FIM Secretary-General Guy Maitre. "For the moment we're looking for an alternative date and venue but we have found neither yet." Maitre said it was common knowledge that the Kyalami Circuit owners, Motor Racing Enterprises, had financial problems, but denied that circuit organisers were looking for an alternative venue only in Europe. Motor Racing Enterprises Managing Director Dave McGregor said on South African radio that he hoped the track could still host the meeting.

Seles may miss U.S. Open



Monica Seles grimaces in pain after a spectator stabbed her with a knife at the Hamburg Open on April 30 (AP photo).

Paris that Seles might never play again. And late last month, Seles and Tolleson denied reports in a German magazine that Seles would be out of action for the rest of the year.

A statement released jointly Friday by Drs. Richard Steadman and Richard Hawkins said: "Her shoulder continues to improve regarding motion and strength, and her improvement is monitored on a daily basis."

While reiterating they have never put Seles on a timetable, the doctors said Seles was working hard to rehabilitate her shoulder, which, "if it reaches full recovery, will let her know when she will be able to return to competition."

Reports persist that Seles' injury is more severe than originally thought:

In May, tennis officials denied there was any truth to rumours in

"I think from the very begin-

ning, the doctors and Monica said, they had no idea how long it would take to recuperate," Tolleson said. "It's day to day, and it's a matter of rehabilitation. And that's what Monica has been doing, rehabbing. She's real dedicated but just not ready."

Seles was ranked No. 1 in the world when she was stabbed on April 30 during a tournament at Hamburg, Germany. Later, the knife-wielding German said he was a Steffi Graf fan who wanted to knock Seles out of the No. 1 spot.

Since then, Graf has taken over the top ranking from Seles, who remains upbeat about her recovery in part because of an outpouring of fan letters.

"I have heard from people throughout the world," she said. "The messages are wonderful and range from other victims of senseless crimes who tell me how they are coping, to people who say they missed me at tournaments, to the general public with their kind wishes for my return to the game."

"I really appreciate the support I have received."

Tolleson, who has spoken frequently with Seles during her recuperation, said Seles is frustrated but not depressed.

"She wants to be out of the court, so that's obviously frustrating," Tolleson said. "But she's hanging in there and working very hard, trying to get healed so she can get back to playing."

Museeuw leads in Tour de France

CHALONS-SUR-MARNE, France (R) — Björne Riis of Denmark won the seventh stage of the Tour de France in a breakaway which saw Belgian Johan Museeuw take the race leader's yellow jersey Saturday.

Riis surprisingly outspurts two reputedly faster men, Italy's Maximilian Sciandri and Museeuw, after a group of seven got away and maintained a lead of more than two minutes over the main pack.

But Museeuw was happy enough to finish third as he took the overall lead from another sprinter Mario Cipollini. The yellow jersey has now changed hands for days in a row.

Cipollini, in the same GB MG team as Museeuw, led the Peloton home in a mass sprint some two minutes 26 behind.

Museeuw had started the day in 10th place, one minute 22 seconds behind the Italian.

"I wanted to take the yellow jersey today because it might be the only time in my career that I get the chance," the Belgian said.

Henkel predicts drugs at Stuttgart

BONN (Agencies) — Germany's Olympic high jump champion Heike Henkel predicts that some athletes at next month's World Championships in Stuttgart will be using performance-boosting drugs.

"Some people will still be full of them," she has told Monday's issue of Der Spiegel magazine. "There will be a lot of negligence in the controls."

But she sympathises with Germany's reigning 100m and 200m world champion, Katrin Krabbe, who has been banned for one year after failing a dope test.

"I sympathise with Katrin Krabbe because her life has been destroyed," she said..

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The Assassination of Mamalik by artist Saeed Biter

Show on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m. Please book seats in advance

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The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahian Arab Summit" play which

will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

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AHIAN NABIL AND HISHAM THEATRE	The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahian Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

Clinton, Yeltsin pledge further effort to boost ties

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton promised Boris Yeltsin on Saturday that he would sweep away the last vestiges of cold war of trade barriers between the United States and Russia, which he described as "much more alike" now than ever before.

Mr. Clinton also praised his "remarkable" relationship with Mr. Yeltsin and the Russian president said that "our partnership and our friendship is strengthening day by day."

Their breakfast meeting was the first since the Russian-U.S. April summit in Vancouver and Mr. Yeltsin's victory in a crucial referendum on his power and reforms that same month.

Mr. Clinton praised Mr. Yeltsin's bold steps to create a new constitution, which paved the way for billions of dollars U.S.-sponsored economic assistance from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations that met in Tokyo this week.

Acknowledging that the two "still have some differences," Mr. Clinton said: "We represent two great countries that are now very much more alike than they have ever been in their history."

Those differences include Russia's discontent over continued Western trade restrictions and

U.S. concern over Russian sales of missile technology to India and other countries.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin have a lot staked on one another and have had an intense relationship from the beginning.

During this visit, Mr. Clinton several times reached out to Mr. Yeltsin, wrapping him in a one-armed embrace or clasping his hand at the end of their joint news conference.

Both leaders want to keep the momentum of good relations going. Mr. Clinton said he had accepted an invitation to visit Russia, probably this year.

Mr. Clinton also appeared optimistic when asked whether Russia had agreed to stop missile technology sales — a project of the powerful Defence Ministry.

The president said talks were continuing "intensely and immediately," and an aide said an announcement was likely on Thursday in Washington.

One of Mr. Yeltsin's main objectives in Tokyo was to persuade the West to lift trade restrictions left over from the cold war, when economic pressure was used to punish Russia for its political behaviour. But he came away from the economic summit disappointed by the response.

UNFPA urges improved living conditions for all

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Sunday marked World Population Day 1993 with a call for increased initiatives to improve living conditions for people all over the world.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UNFPA, in a message issued to mark the occasion, said:

"World Population Day commemorates our awareness of population issues. The day is also an opportunity to join in the worldwide effort to find a balance between population, development and the natural environment."

"Local and national initiatives to inform and give access to couples and individuals to

family planning programmes, improve access to education and health, improve women's status and ensure equality of opportunity can influence population growth and distribution.

"Sustainable development can be achieved if we can agree on common approaches to issues affecting the world. Among the most important of these is population."

"In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development will set the agenda for a concerted effort over the next 20 years. Awareness creation must begin on World Population Day 1993."

"Population issues affect the life of every one of us, whatever country we live in, and



Dr. Nafis Sadik

whatever its rate of population growth or level of development. World Population Day reminds all of us that the future depends on finding the balance between human needs and human numbers."

U.N. posts \$25,000 for Aideed

Combined agency despatches

MOGADISHU — The United Nations offered a \$25,000 reward for Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed on Saturday and warned "the days of Aideed are numbered."

A spokesman for General Aideed, in hiding since the U.N. issued an arrest warrant on June 17 for the killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers, laughed at the U.N.'s latest "wanted" poster. "No-one would sell Aideed for \$25,000. It must be a joke," said Hussein Dimbil, his press secretary.

The U.N. showered Mogadishu with 60,000 leaflets saying that thousands more U.N. troops were on their way to join 20,000 in Somalia to arrest Gen. Aideed.

"We will be thousands of U.N. soldiers coming in to give the bandit Aideed," the leaflets said.

"He will be destroyed and considered as an international criminal... the U.N. will never leave Somalia and never negotiate with the bandit Aideed," they said.

Gunmen shot and wounded three French U.N. peacekeepers at Mogadishu port Saturday, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

Major Leeanne Swieczkowski told reporters they were hit by snipers while overseeing the unloading of supplies from a ship.

Two were hit in the abdomen and one in the shoulder, she said.

Their condition was not immediately known.

Royal Decree sets off campaign

(Continued from page 1)

districts are maintained. Member of Parliament and former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri recently told the Jordan Times.

If the one-person-one-vote system is introduced without changing the constituencies, a mathematical possibility exists for a major difference to arise in the number of votes that carry each deputy to the House, observers say.

The difficulty in redrawing the voting districts lies in defining the criteria according to which the one-person-one-vote system.

Ross upbeat after talks in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

nians rejected it largely on grounds that it referred to territories occupied in 1967 — the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem — as disputed rather than occupied land.

Mr. Musa said Saturday's talks centred on conditions for Palestinians during the interim stage of autonomy. He also stressed that Israel's idea to deal later with the crucial issue of Jerusalem is not acceptable.

"There are new American ideas and there are different ideas from Egypt and the negotiating parties, and that is what we are discussing with the Americans," Mr. Musa said.

"But ignoring the issue of Jerusalem is not possible," he added. "There is hope that there can be

Mr. Clinton, however, offered Mr. Yeltsin fresh assurances, saying he had been working with Congress to eliminate "obsolete" cold war barriers that still impede scientific, cultural and other contacts with Russia.

"We have compiled quite a long list of them that we think could be justified anymore," he said. "And there is a strong base of support in both political parties in the United States Congress to remove those laws."

On another issue, the two leaders spoke of prodding Ukraine to give up its nuclear weapons for dismantling, though the parliament in Kiev has been unwilling to part with the arms.

At their annual summit, Mr. Clinton and the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan endorsed a \$28.4 billion aid package for Russia that had been assembled in April, then added \$3 billion to help finance the conversion of large state-run enterprises to private hands.

As an example of the new partnership, Mr. Clinton noted that Mr. Yeltsin's wife had an interest in dental care, and the United States had arranged to deliver surplus military equipment to set up two dental clinics in Moscow.



STATE OF ALERT: Israeli gunners prepare themselves on top of their artillery on the border with Lebanon as tension mounted Saturday after five Israeli soldiers were killed in resistance attacks in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Arabs and Israelis must show they want peace — Christopher

TOKYO (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Friday renewed efforts to boost stalled Mideast peace talks, saying it was time for Arabs and Israelis to show that they really care about reaching a settlement.

In an interview with American reporters, he said he would be "surprised" if he did not make a trip to the Mideast in the next two months but that would depend on the results of consultations underway in the region by U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and others.

"I think we've reached a point where the United States needs to be active because the process seems to be either slowed down or stalled," Mr. Christopher said.

"We're testing at the present time whether the parties really want us to make the commitment of time and energy," he said, adding: "I think it's up to them to show sufficient flexibility to show that they care enough to justify our time and energy and commitment."

The 10th round of Middle East peace talks ended earlier this month on a gloomy note, with Palestinians questioning the U.S. stand on Jerusalem and Israel faulting an American document aimed at identifying long-standing differences.

The Clinton administration, openly dissatisfied with the pace of these negotiations, sent Mr. Ross to the Middle East and Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian — who will become ambassador to Israel at year's end — to try to revive the momentum.

Mr. Christopher said he had not yet received a readout of Mr. Ross's trip and did not expect any decisive results at least for several days.

"There will be careful probing with all the players in the Middle East," he said.

Asked about his own plans for a trip to the region, Mr. Christopher said: "That depends almost completely on the results of the conversations (now underway). I would be surprised if Labour Day (Sept. 6) came and went without my having travelled out there but I can't tell you exactly when."

Mr. Christopher's predecessor, James Baker, made repeated trips to the Middle East to get the first face-to-face Arab-Israeli talks started with the October 1991 peace conference in Madrid and subsequently to keep them going.

With this backdrop and the administration's promise to become more directly involved in the peace process, there has been frequent speculation about when Mr. Christopher might make a trip.

He stressed, however, that the Ross-Djerjian mission represents a very strong U.S. commitment to try and get the parties moving and begin to resolve serious substantive issues.

"We want to use our efforts... with a strong role as an honest broker to get them to face the question as to whether they are interested in the peace process and if they are, won't they get about narrowing the differences," he added.

"The American paper blows away the basic rules of the peace process and leads the negotiations nowhere," Mr. Christopher said.

He called for the American paper to be put aside "because it makes the credibility of the United States as a fair sponsor questionable." Mr. Christopher said that Washington had backed down on assurances made to the Palestinians before the talks began in October 1991.

Mr. Christopher insisted that the paper could not be the basis for further talks.

Mr. Christopher said the failure of the American plan to deal with Jerusalem was "a defiance and provocation to Arabs and Muslims."

Reminded that Russia has a dialogue with the PLO and it is a

co-sponsor in the peace talks, and asked whether the Russians review their contacts with the PLO with the U.S. vis-a-vis the peace talks, Mr. Snyder said: "We certainly have extensive discussions with the co-sponsors on the talks. I can't say specifically whether that one topic is covered, but we certainly do talk to them extensively about the talks."

Asked whether Russia urged the U.S. to open a dialogue with the PLO, Mr. Snyder replied: "I don't know."

Arafat reaffirms stand

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Friday urged the United States to withdraw its proposals for sparing the Israeli-Arab peace process, saying that they were unfair, the Palestinian WAFA news agency reported.

WAFA also quoted Mr. Arafat as urging the other Arab delegations to support the Palestinians' stand.

Mr. Arafat made his remark in a monthly radio address marking the anniversary of the start of the Palestinian uprising. The revolt began in December 1987, and Mr. Arafat said it would continue until victory over "the tyrant of our time."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Djibouti claims victory over rebels

DJIBOUTI (AFP) — Government forces regained control of all the positions held in the country by Afar rebels, Defence Minister Ahmad Boulah Barre said Saturday. According to the minister the positions were recaptured during an offensive launched Monday and the government forces had succeeded in "regaining total control of Djibouti territory." Three soldiers died and six others were wounded during the operation, Mr. Ahmad said without saying how many victims there had been from the rebel Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy. Some 34 rebels and two French women, members of the Association for the Support of the Afar People, had been arrested, he added.

Filipina maids flown home from Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — About 400 Filipina domestic workers alleging mistreatment by employers have been flown home in groups over the past two weeks, the Philippines embassy said Saturday. The departure of 101 Filipinas at around midnight Friday on a flight to Manila nearly completed a Kuwaiti-funded repatriation plan for 424 maids who had been at an embassy-run refuge. Consul General Wenceslao Quiroga said by telephone about 20 maids remained. Most were ill and required further medical attention before flying home, he said without elaborating. The maids had fled to the embassy alleging mistreatment including non-payment of wages and rape or other physical abuse. Some had lived at the refuge for a year.

Muslim policeman kills himself after taunts

NEW YORK (AP) — The suicide of transit police officer Mahamoud Tamer took place kilometres away from the subway tunnels where he worked. But authorities are investigating what role the taunts of his co-workers might have played in his death. The body of the 26-year-old Muslim officer was found Friday. Authorities said he disappeared 11 days ago after enduring teasing from co-workers about ties to the World Trade Centre blast because of his religion. Authorities feared this might happen after the last time Tamer was seen: A June 28 incident where another police officer found wandering along subway tracks in Brooklyn and threatening to kill himself. He failed to show up for work that night, setting off an intense hunt which ended with the discovery of his body on the eastern end of Long Island. Tamer apparently drove his van to Montauk State Park, scaled a cliff to reach a ledge and shot himself once in the head, said Transit police spokesman

Al O'Leary. The body had been there for several days, he said.

Mexico rejects U.S. request to accept Chinese

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Mexico has turned down a U.S. request to take in hundreds of Chinese immigrants aboard three ships of the Pacific Coast. The Foreign Ministry said that Mexico could not accept the 659 Chinese because the ships were in international waters and that if the vessels came into Mexican waters, the Chinese would be repatriated. In asking Mexico to accept the Chinese, the U.S. State Department offered to pay the cost of repatriating those determined to be economic refugees. Asked why Mexico and not the United States should take in the Chinese, department spokesman Joe Snyder said: "The ships are located in Mexico."

Thousands caught in U.S. nationwide manhunt

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. police have caught nearly 6,000 fugitives throughout the country. "Operation Trident," the 17th of its kind in the past 12 years, targeted 37 U.S. cities over a nine-week period, according to officials who said that though it is slated to end July 1, police will continue to step up their vigilance in more than 20 cities. Cities in Texas, California, Tennessee and Pennsylvania as well as the capital were among those listed. Calling it the massive manhunt one of the largest and most successful in U.S. history, associate attorney general Webster Hubbell reported that 5,788 criminals had been caught. Those apprehended included 229 charged or convicted with murder, 398 for sexual assault and 1,744 for drug trafficking. The oldest person was 80 and the youngest 13.

French policeman held in assault probe

PARIS (R) — A French magistrate has taken the rare step of jailing a Paris policeman before trial on possible charges of seriously beating a young Bahraini in a restaurant last month. Justice sources said. Officer Francis Catry was jailed Friday after being placed under investigation by a magistrate for beating student Tameen Taqi on June 30. French policemen, frequently accused of brutality against youths and Arab immigrants, are rarely held in pre-trial custody in such cases. Mr. Taqi, a relative of a diplomat at the Bahraini embassy in Paris, filed a complaint to the police internal investigations division, after being himself earlier placed under investigation on a complaint by Mr. Catry.

S. Arabia attempts to mediate in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia is trying to mediate between Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to end their paralysing six-month-old struggle for power, an official source said Saturday.

Saudi intelligence chief Prince Turki Al Faisal arrived in Pakistan Thursday and has since held lengthy meetings with Mr. Ishaq Khan. Mr. Sharif asked them to end their confrontation, said the government official who declined to be named.

"The Saudis are very concerned about what is happening in Pakistan and that this could lead the country to political chaos and anarchy," the source said. "It was this concern that brought Prince Turki to Pakistan."

The president and prime minister were to meet Saturday evening as a result of hectic mediation by Prince Turki and several local religious groups, the source said.

"While remaining within the diplomatic limits, the prince tried to convince the two leaders to sort out their differences mutually."

Several other Muslim countries have voiced concern about Pakistan's simmering political crisis.

"There is certainly pressure from other countries to end this confrontation," the source said. Several Muslim leaders raised their anxieties in talks with Mr. Sharif at this week's meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation in Istanbul, he said.

Mr. Ishaq Khan sacked Mr. Sharif on April 18 on charges of corruption and misrule only to see him reinstated in a landmark supreme court judgment 39 days later.

He has since been working behind the scenes to destabilise Mr. Sharif's government.

Bhutto rejects offer

A war by letter intensified Saturday when opposition